

MEDIA RELEASE

*Tennessee Department of Labor
& Workforce Development*

For Immediate Release
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MARCH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 5.1 PERCENT

RATE DOWN FROM LAST MONTH AND ONE YEAR AGO

NASHVILLE - Tennessee's unemployment rate for the month of March is 5.1 percent, down 0.1 percentage points from the seasonally adjusted February rate of 5.2 percent, Commissioner of Labor & Workforce Development James Neeley announced today. The national unemployment rate for March is 4.7 percent, down from the February rate of 4.8.

"It is encouraging to see continued job growth in Tennessee," said Commissioner Neeley. "Service-providing jobs in our state are seeing solid growth in the last six years, while manufacturing jobs continue a slow decline. The most significant employment growth is seen in trade, transportation and utilities; leisure and hospitality; and education and health."

February-to-March figures show increases in leisure and hospitality, up 7,000 jobs. There was growth in trade, transportation and utilities, up by 5,000. Construction employment increased by 2,600 jobs. Few employment decreases took place from February to March with 200 jobs lost in miscellaneous manufacturing and 200 jobs lost in electrical equipment and appliances.

From March 2005 to March 2006, trade, transportation and utilities increased by 10,400. Jobs in leisure and hospitality rose by 9,100 and educational and health services jobs increased by 7,600. Employment decreased in manufacturing by 5,600, food and beverage stores by 1,300 and federal government jobs by 800.

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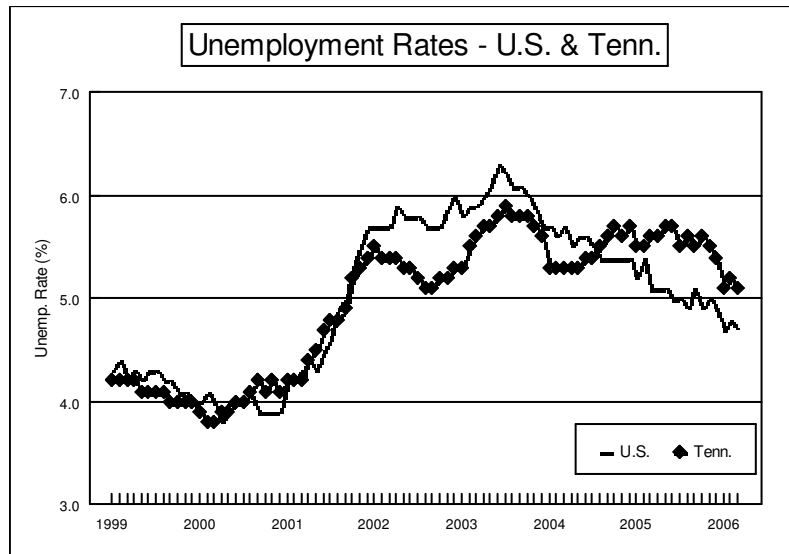
ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER • 8TH FLOOR • 710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
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LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

| Seasonally Adjusted | March, 2006 | | | | Feb. '06 | | Mar. '05 | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Labor Force | Employment | Unemployment | Unem. Rate | Rate | Change | Rate | Change |
| UNITED STATES | 150,652,000 | 143,641,000 | 7,011,000 | 4.7% | 4.8% | -0.1% | 5.1% | -0.4% |
| TENNESSEE | 2,940,100 | 2,789,000 | 151,200 | 5.1% | 5.2% | -0.1% | 5.6% | -0.5% |

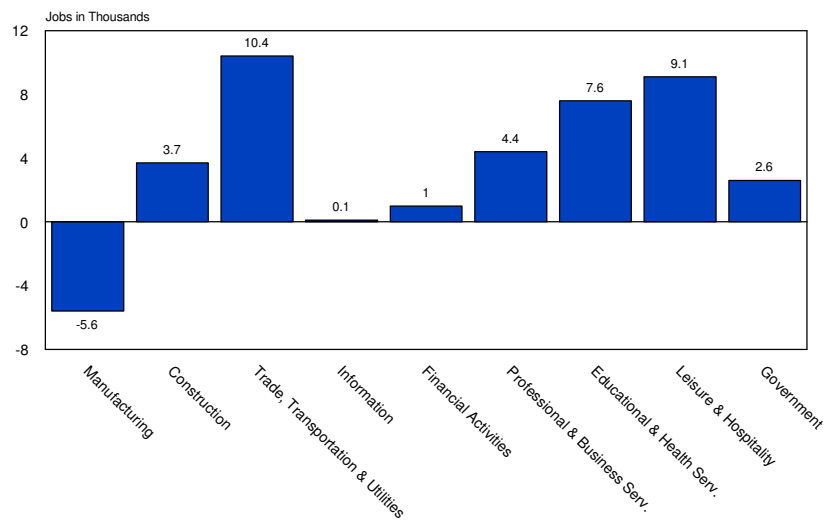
Not Seasonally Adjusted

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------|------|-------|------|-------|
| UNITED STATES | 150,027,000 | 142,772,000 | 7,255,000 | 4.8% | 5.1% | -0.3% | 5.4% | -0.6% |
| TENNESSEE | 2,916,500 | 2,759,100 | 157,500 | 5.4% | 5.5% | -0.1% | 6.0% | -0.6% |



OVER THE YEAR JOB CHANGES

By Major Industry (March 2005-2006)



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(06-55)

